

Application Serial No. 10/049,949
Amendment dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated September 23, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the first full paragraph beginning at line on page 2 which reads:
This object is achieved by the independent claims.

Please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 28 on page 4, which extends onto page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

A groove 2 is adjacent to the floor zone of the melting end 1. It opens into the floor zone of a skull crucible 3. The skull crucible 3 is enclosed by the windings 3.1 of a high-frequency coil. One recognizes the schematically shown ~~convention~~ convection roll 3.2. Skull crucible 3 is used for refining the melt as produced in melting end 1.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 5 beginning at line 14, which extends onto page 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The embodiment according to [[fig.]] Fig. 2 is essentially the same as the one according to [[fig.]] Fig. 1. It differs however in the following: Stain reservoir 6 [[without]] with outlet 6.1 is arranged in such a way that the stain 6.1 is injected into the connecting line 2. This is achieved in such a way that one sets the pressure in the stain reservoir 6 ("stain feeder") at a slightly higher level than the pressure in the connecting line 2. Depending on the density of the added stain concentrate it is necessary to vary the melt level in the stain feeder 6 with respect to the melt level 1.1 in the other system. If the density of the stain concentrate is higher than the density of the glass melt, the melt level in the stain feeder 6 must be chosen equal to or lower than that in the melting-in zone. If the density of the stain concentrate is lower than the density of the glass melt, the melt level of the concentrate in the stain feeder 6 must be chosen at a higher level than the melt level 1.1 in the melting end 1. The supply of the stain concentrate can be regulated either alone or by the hydrostatic pressure and the viscosity of the concentrate. It is also possible to provide the concentrate supply chamber in addition with an overpressure or underpressure control in order to enable the regulation of the stain quantity independent of melt level difference and viscosity.

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Please replace the second full paragraph on page 6 beginning at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The principal arrangement of the unit according to [[fig.]] Fig. 3 is the same as that of [[figs.]] Figs. 1 and 2. The difference is, however, that the stain concentrate is supplied by means of a duct 6.1 which, in the manner of an electrode, immerses into the melt. The pass-through is thus air- or water-cooled in order to ensure leak-proofness. The cooling is reduced when required during the re-supply of stain concentrate.

Please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The arrows 4 and 40 indicate that the respective [[color]] colored glasses are supplied to further processing.